



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

OBSTETRIC PRACTICE—Harold Speert, M.D., Associate in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Assistant Attending Obstetrician and Gynecologist, The Presbyterian Hospital; Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D. Director of the Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Mount Sinai Hospital, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Landsberger Medical Books, Inc. New York, 1956, 478 pages. \$7.00.

This is intended to be a handbook for the general practitioner, proposed as a "practical, up-to-date guide" for him in the management of pregnancy and its complications. It impresses this reviewer as being a very general survey of current obstetrical practice, and is modern in its approach. The concepts represent the combined thinking of the two authors and the general practices of their respective institutions (Sloane and Mt. Sinai in New York), which are not always in agreement (example—management of diabetes in late pregnancy). The advice and recommendations regarding normal pregnancy and hygiene are sound and in accord with current obstetric practice.

The handbook contains a good index. There is no bibliography, which is proper as this is not intended to be a textbook. Minor editorial objections may be noted, such as the use of the word "principal" for "principle" (p. 233).

This volume may be generally recommended for its intended purpose, and will find usefulness in the hands of the general practitioner who wishes to bring himself up to date in matters obstetrical on a rather broad scale.

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THE MANAGEMENT OF MENSTRUAL DISORDERS—C. Frederic Fluhmann, B.A., M.D., C.M., Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University School of Medicine, W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1956. 350 pages, 121 figures, \$8.50.

This is an excellent book, by an erudite author. It deals with all facets of the complex process that is menstruation, and is not confined merely to the management of menstrual disorders. The latter occupies only one phase of the over-all discussion. The textbook (for that is what this is) begins with an inclusive historical discussion of the concepts of menstruation. Following is a complete picture of the hormones involved in the process and their endocrinologic controls. Menstrual disorders are then thoroughly analyzed, based upon the author's extensive knowledge of and personal work done in this field. Specific methods of management are presented for the various abnormalities. The climacteric and menopause are very completely covered, and the book concludes with a discussion of clinical usage and commercial preparations of sex hormones.

This book can be recommended for the obstetrical specialist, for the internist, and for the endocrinologist. The clinical approach is emphasized throughout. The volume is a worthy successor to the author's previous text on menstrual disorders published in 1939.

OF RESEARCH PEOPLE—George E. Burch, M.D., F.A.C.P., Henderson Professor of Medicine, Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, Grune and Stratton, New York, 1955. 56 pages, \$3.00.

The author has written a careful and thought-provoking essay upon a subject of concern directly to professional workers in the biologic sciences, and to the mass of lay consumers eager to learn the truth, but often forced to listen to prejudiced accounts unfortunately colored. Dr. Burch's carefully balanced and precise sentences demonstrate a type of insight not often found in essays of this character. There is a message for the investigator himself, which outlines his potential credulities and pitfalls. Although being a professional research worker is a full-time job, most investigators are pressured into spending their potentially productive time in dilettante activities, such as dispatching, speech-making, promotional activities and attending endless and meaningless committees. For the research assistant and research fellow, there is sound advice, especially in regard to the tragedy of "taking one's self too seriously." The research technician and other personnel, who often clutter the landscape of the research environment, may learn how to better evaluate their duties and conduct themselves in accordance. The "Research Director" comes in for his share of appreciation, terse and to the point. For the University Administrative Officer, the essay is a must. All in all it is sound and delightful reading. Unfortunately the book is hampered by illustrations appropriate for a Sunday comic strip but certainly unfit for so sapient a contribution.

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CASIMIR FUNK—Pioneer in Vitamins and Hormones—Benjamin Harow. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, N. Y., 1955. 209 pages, \$4.00.

The author has written an interesting biography of a restless person, who despite this attribute (usually a handicap in a scientist) was able to make significant research contributions. That Casimir Funk is a genius of unusual quality no one can deny, especially in the light of his preparatory training with its paucity of supervision, and the hazards of constantly changing his areas of work, intellectual and geographic. Though he often worked under circumstances which were inadequate and discouraging, he still managed to make some important basic contributions to biologic science in the fields of experimental nutrition, the chemistry of hormones, and especially in the commercial production of medicinal agents. No one could have been successful in these latter circumstances without basic knowledge of the principles of chemistry and manufacturing techniques, a singleness of purpose, and an outstanding devotion to an ideal. It is a pity that a man of such unusual talent should have had to indulge so many interests, many not to his complete satisfaction, and always under sub-optimal circumstances, in so many different laboratories.

The author has labored some of the sections by unnecessary repetition and summary, and by the use of descriptive language ostensibly aimed at lay readers. That Casimir Funk was able to make any contributions working under the conditions prevailing in so many different countries is truly a remarkable achievement.

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BORDERLANDS OF THE NORMAL AND EARLY PATHOLOGIC IN SKELETAL ROENTGENOLOGY—Tenth Edition—Prof. Alban Kohler—Completely Revised with Reference to Illustrations and to Text by Dozent Dr. E. A. Zimmer, Bern/Fribourg, English Translation Arranged and Edited by James T. Case, M.D., D.M.R.E. (Cambridge) Professor Emeritus of Radiology, Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago. Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1956. 723 pages, \$24.50.

Medical records are sometimes divided into three broad types: Records of conditions which are frankly abnormal; records of conditions which are apparently quite normal; and, finally, records of conditions of dubious normalcy. The latter constitute a source of frequent difficulty in teaching, in clinical practice and in research. The author of this book recognized this well-known fact many years ago and prepared an excellent treatise in German dealing with borderlines of the normal in skeletal roentgenology.

English editions appeared in 1928 and in 1935, both being sold out in a few years' time. The present edition is moderately enlarged since that of two decades ago, and remains replete with useful information on variations and anomalies of the skeletal system which are a common source of confusion and erroneous diagnosis in everyday practice. Many radiologists keep this volume beside a well thumbed copy of Gray's Anatomy as two of the most frequently consulted works in their library.

After an excellent section on fundamental considerations, there are chapters devoted to conditions of the upper extremity, the shoulder girdle, the thorax, the skull, the spinal column and pelvis, and finally the lower extremity. There is an adequate number of illustrations and diagrams. The references are satisfactory and the index reasonably so. The reviewer believes that this volume will continue to be of considerable use in clinical roentgenology for many years to come.

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UROLOGY—B. G. Clarke, M.S., M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Urology, Tufts University School of Medicine; and Louis R. M. Del Guercio, M.D., Assistant Resident Surgeon, St. Vincent's Hospital, New York. The Blakiston Division, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956. 245 pages, \$6.50.

This little volume is another short compendium on urology, similar to others that have appeared in recent years, intended primarily for the student or physician who does not have available the specialty literature or who desires only very brief but accurate basic information. The book does contain very short descriptions of most of the modern urological diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, but with entirely too little detail to satisfy any real thirst for information about the techniques or problems involved.

Though the preface implies that the published book is based on the lectures given (presumably by the senior author) at the Tufts University School of Medicine, it is really not sufficiently complete for a textbook. The publishers suggest that it is to be read during the course and may be used for board reviews. For this latter purpose it is really little more than a very complete outline or index of the subjects to be studied.

The book has, however, some valuable features. It is quite up-to-date and has very brief descriptions of practically all of the more recent developments. It is accurate and scientific and one will find little to criticize in any of the statements.

It is made easy to read by the generous use of line drawings, x-rays, and photomicrographs. These are all well reproduced and usually accompanied by a concise history of the problem. This is a feature that might profitably be more generally adopted. Finally, the bibliography appended to each chapter is unusually good and to a certain extent makes up for the brevity of the text, for the reader who wishes to pursue any subject in greater detail will find there the references necessary for more exhaustive study.

The chief objection to the book has already been stated. To the urologist, at least, that it is too brief and that this brevity tends to oversimplify the subject and fails to recognize the extreme significance of the details so vitally important in the management of urological patients.

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RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA—Role of Oxygen—Report of the Sixteenth M & R Pediatric Research Conference. Issued by M & R Laboratories, Columbus 16, Ohio, 1955. 62 pages.

This brochure of a symposium held under the auspices of the Department of Pediatrics, University of New York College of Medicine is a review of the various facets of retro-ocular fibroplasia.

This brochure summarizes the laboratory and clinical investigations prior to January 1955 and is of interest to both pediatricians and ophthalmologists.

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SALIVARY GLAND TUMORS—Donald E. Ross, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.I.C.S., F.R.C.S. (Eng.), F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Diplomate, The American Board of Surgery, Chief Surgeon, Ross-Loos Medical Group, Los Angeles. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Illinois, 1955. 86 pages, \$7.50.

This book has the advantage of being concentrated, terse and well written. Parotid tumors and neoplasms of the salivary gland are reviewed, described and the pathology is discussed. There are some excellent cuts of microscopic slides of tumors, both low and high power. Surgical anatomy is carefully reviewed with salient structures involved in these problems brought out with excellent cuts. Criteria of surgery and the proper procedures are described and discussed.

Dr. Ross brings out the pertinent fact that tumors of the parotid are very apt to invade the capsule and therefore removal of the tumor with the capsule alone is rarely sufficient. Operation to correct paralysis of the facial nerve is touched upon with illustrations.

This book is an excellent reference work in which the salient factors of these problems can be quickly reviewed.

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COLLAGEN DISEASES—Including Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Polyarteritis, Dermatomyositis, Systemic Scleroderma, Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura—John H. Talbot, M.D., Professor of Medicine, University of Buffalo School of Medicine, and R. Moler Ferrandis, M.D., Training Fellow in Arthritis of the Western New York Chapter of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation. Grune and Stratton, Inc., New York, 1956. 232 pages, \$6.50.

This small monograph presents, in well written form, a surprising amount of information concerning the disorders named in its subtitle. Each of the five chapters contains divisions on the history, incidence, and relation of the disturbance to other collagen disorders; etiology and pathogenesis, pathology, clinical and laboratory findings, diagnosis, course and treatment are described. Illustrations and index are satisfactory and the bibliography is extensive. In short, the work provides an excellent review of the so-called collagen diseases and may be recommended without reservation.